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FEBRUARY MEETING, 1898.

THE stated meeting was held on Thursday, the 10th instant, at three o'clock, P. M., at the house of Mr. William S. Appleton, Beacon Street; the President, CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS, LL.D., in the chair.

The record of the last meeting was read and approved, and the list of donors to the Library was also read.

Rev. George A. Gordon, D.D., of Boston, was elected a Resident Member.

Communications from the Third Section having been called for, Mr. R. C. WINTHROP, Jr., said:—

I am about to deal as briefly as may be with a variety of subjects, to some of which I should have called attention long ere this if a suitable opportunity had offered. In the first place, I wish to explain that I was prevented by a sore throat from being present at the October meeting, when I was expected to say something about Theodore Lyman, but I regretted it the less when I read in the following Serial the appropriate tributes then paid to him by Mr. Lothrop and Mr. Chase, to say nothing of the entertaining reminiscences of him uttered by the President in December. It happens, however, that neither in the remarks of these three gentlemen, nor in any obituary notice of Lyman, so far as I met with them, was any allusion made to two important contributions of his to local historical literature. One of them, a pamphlet of seventy-three pages issued in 1870, and entitled "Papers relating to the Garrison Mob," is a work which no student of the development of the Antislavery movement in this neighborhood should fail to ponder. The other, a pamphlet of thirty-two pages issued in 1881, is a highly interesting memoir of his father, the second Theodore Lyman, which was prepared in the first instance for the New England Historic Genealogical Society, and is also to be found in one of their volumes.

Publications of this nature are apt after a while to be lost sight of, and as it may be long before a memoir of Lyman himself appears, I think it advisable to make a passing allusion to these two productions, in order that a reference to them may be found in the index to that volume of our Proceedings which will contain the notice of his death, for they are not only well worth reading, but of permanent value.

In the second place, I found some time ago among the papers of James Bowdoin, an elder brother of my father, and in his day an active member of this Society, a copy taken by him in 1823 of a manuscript then in possession of Hon. John Phillips, who died in that year, and whether or not the original is now in existence I am unable to say. It was apparently prepared for insertion in a London newspaper in the spring of 1775, and it gives a by no means flattering description of some leading members of the Revolutionary party in Boston. On account of its personalities I at first hesitated to communicate it here, but I am advised that, as nearly a century and a quarter has elapsed since it was written, and in view of many sharp expressions which have found their way into print concerning prominent Loyalists, there is no harm in occasionally drawing attention to language used on the other side. It reads as follows:—

LONDON, 18 April, 1775.

As the true Sons of Liberty in Boston always make it a rule to publish the names and affix the characters of those whom they may vote inimical to their favorite Cause, it may not be amiss, by way of tit for tat, to give the public a list of sixty-three persons who were appointed to carry into execution in the Town of Boston the agreement and association of the respectable Continental Congress.¹ As the characters that follow are known to be just by many people in this City, and universally in Boston, the author makes no apology for introducing them in this public manner:—

THOMAS CUSHING. A distiller of spirits and Speaker of the Mass. House of Commons. A dealer in cannon and other warlike stores; also a manager of lotteries that yielded immense sums unaccounted for.

¹ The list of persons so appointed is to be found printed in the Eighteenth Report of the Record Commissioners of Boston, pages 206, 207. It contains but sixty-two names, that of Edward Davis having perhaps been omitted by accident. In printing this Circular two names have purposely been left blank, but the one to which the words "torn and illegible" are prefixed is undoubtedly that of John Winthrop, Jr., eldest son of Professor John Winthrop of Harvard, and at the date of this appointment twenty-seven years of age.

SAMUEL ADAMS. Formerly a collector of taxes and largely in debt to the Town of Boston. The principal spring and manager of plots and conspiracies against the State; — famous for smoking bacon and always shudders at the sight of hemp.

JOHN HANCOCK. A merchant; orator and milch cow to the Faction, but whether public spirit or vanity has been his governing spirit is uncertain.

WILLIAM PHILLIPS. A deacon of the Old South meeting, an occasional Moderator at Town meetings; formality and a Presbyterian face are his ornaments.

THOMAS MARSHALL. Tailor, a very brave man, as no one questions his courage on pain of being pricked by his bodkin; also a great scholar and well-versed in the languages.

JOHN PITTS. A Selectman, wise prudent and discerning, very fond of soft music. Prompter to the Provincial Congress.

OLIVER WENDELL. Oilman, a very worthy man.

SAMUEL AUSTIN. A Selectman. By his connections it's tho't that cyder may make good wine.

BENJAMIN AUSTIN. Ropemaker, very officious in politics and a rejected Councillor.

CALEB DAVIS. Shopkeeper, a new-made deacon, but in trade esteemed an honest man.

WILLIAM DAVIS. Merchant, of small importance and great conceit.

WILLIAM WHITWELL. A bone-cutter, key-keeper in the time of the last mock non-importation, and of a jesuitical turn.

SAMUEL BARRETT. Shopkeeper, a prime politician.

JONATHAN MASON. A brazier, of a dark, surly countenance, the true index of his mind.

JOHN BRADFORD. Mariner, a brave and valiant sea-commander, only a little bashful, which is well known to the underwriters in London.

JOHN BROWN. A Wigmaker.

WILLIAM POWELL. Merchant, a high Son of Liberty, if abusive language and assurance entitle a person to that character.

RICHARD BOYNTON. Blacksmith, a deacon and excessive smooth and civil in conversation.

——— Mariner, mean-spirited, swearing and silly, very amorous with kitchen furniture.

ELIAS PARKMAN. Shopkeeper, an impudent boy.

JOHN AVERY, JUN^r Son-in-law to the Speaker of the Mass. H^o of Commons and formerly a mob secretary.

EZEKIEL CHEEVER. Distiller, a low proof.

EDWARD PROCTER. A retailer of lemons and Oliverian principles.

JAMES IVERS. An idle politician.

EBENEZER HANCOCK. Brazier, brother to Orator John.

WILLIAM GREENLEAF. Auctioneer, very soft and pretty in his address, but is not without bad humors.

—— ——— Leather dresser, a very bony man. N. B. Horns on his sign-post.

HERMAN BRIMMER. Shopkeeper, a sudden deserter from the Church of England, a candidate for deacon at Dr Chauncy's, alias Hugh Peter's, meeting. N. B. Sings well.

MARTIN BRIMMER. Apothecary, civil and well-esteemed.

PETER BOYER. Dealer, in partnership with Major Thompson, clerk to the Provincial Congress.

BENJAMIN CHURCH. Physician, well versed in the art of canting, a qualification requisite for a delegate.

JOSEPH WARREN. Ditto.

JOSEPH GREENLEAF. Retailer of pamphlets, formerly a Justice of the peace, but broken for malpractices.

BENJAMIN WALDO. Mariner, a surly humdrum Son of Liberty.

JOHN PULLING. Bully of the Mohawk tribe.

PAUL REVERE. Silversmith. Ambassador from the Committee of Correspondence of Boston to the Congress at Philadelphia.

[*torn and illegible*] Alias Joyce Junior, Chairman of the Committee for tarring and feathering, who is now strolling in the West Indies.

NATHANIEL NOYES. A trifling apothecary, whose medicines, like himself, are without virtue, — well known among the butchers for buying lean meat.

SAMUEL PITTS. Fishmonger, formerly a salmon-catcher at Indian harbour.

CAPTAIN RUDDOCK. Supposed to be one Abiel Ruddock, formerly head of the mob on the 5th of November.

CHARLES JARVIS. Physician, a turn-coat and of no consequence.

THOMAS CHASE. Retailer, well known under Liberty Tree in the time of the Stamp Act.

NATHANIEL BARBER. Insurance broker, remarkable for bullying and rioting.

FORTESQUE VERNON. A broken merchant one day, whole one the next.

JOB PRINCE. Mariner, remarkable for his pretended hospitality to strangers.

CALEB HOPKINS. Ditto, a Northern politician, talks on both sides the question occasionally.

MOSES GILL. Brazier, a great Puritan, but without religion.

THOMAS BOYLSTON. Merchant, one who loves his money better than his country, largely concerned in the slave trade.

JOHN MARSTON. Publican, keeper of a gaming-house, very tyrannical and oppressive.

NORMAN GREENOUGH. Sailmaker, whose house was built by unrighteousness.

MOSES GRANT. Feather-seller. A cashiered Cadet for abusing one of the Commissioners of his Maj^{ties} Customs.

FOSTER CONDY. Shopkeeper, broken for the same crime.

HENRY BROMFIELD. One who talks much and does little.

CYRUS BALDWIN. Shopkeeper, of little consequence and strongly suspected to be a Roman Catholic.

BOSSENGER FOSTER. Retailer of spirits and very warm in politics.

ISAAC PIERCE. Victualler, a person of little consequence.

ENOCH BROWN. Retailer, said to be in partnership with a certain auctioneer of whom he buys many bargains.

JOSEPH EAYRES. Carpenter, eminent for erecting Liberty poles.

HENRY BASS. A very important man in his own opinion and a grindstone-factor.

SAMUEL PARTRIDGE. Mariner, a busy, empty, foolish town officer.

JOSHUA BRACKETT. Publican, well known under Cromwell's Head. [School Street, J. B.]

JONATHAN WILLIAMS. Merchant, Moderator of the Old South meeting, often troubled with qualms of conscience.

EDWARD DAVIS. Pedler, a tatler and minds everybody's business but his own.

Indorsed : Copied by J. B. *currente calamo*, March 21, 1823, from a MS. loaned him by Thomas W. Phillips, whose father, Hon. John Phillips, found it among the papers of Solomon Read.

In editing for the Society selections from the papers of Governor Bowdoin and his son-in-law, Sir John Temple, Mr. Smith and I were not called on to consider the advisability of printing this circular, as it came from a different source. The selections made by us from material within our purview ended with the year 1782, and as a long interval may elapse before later ones find their way into the Collections, I have decided to contribute to the Proceedings three isolated letters, which bear no relation to each other, nor to any other manuscripts in the volume from which they are taken. I accordingly communicate, in the third place, the following one from James Bowdoin in Boston to Benjamin Franklin in Paris, introducing a young architect whose name has been much on people's lips of late years, and who was warmly eulogized by our associate Governor Wolcott, at the recent centennial celebration at the State House : —

James Bowdoin to Benjamin Franklin.

BOSTON, June 4, 1785.

MY DEAR FRIEND, — The young gentleman by whom this line will be delivered to you is M^r Charles Bulfinch, the nephew of our late friend Doctor Cooper, and son of my worthy friend D^r Bulfinch. He expects to be in Europe about a year, and having a very strong desire of being introduced to so distinguished a character as D^r Franklin, requested a line for that purpose. He is a sensible, well educated young gentleman, having had y^e honours of our University confer^d on him. I beg leave to reco^mend him to yo^r notice and friendship, & am with all possible regard, D^r Sir,

Yo^r most ob^t humble Serv^tJAMES BOWDOIN.¹His Exc^y BENJ^A FRANKLIN, Esq.

I communicate, in the fourth place, the following letter to James Bowdoin from George Washington, written only ten days after the latter's first inauguration, and which till recently I had supposed to be in print; but I have searched in vain for any notice of it by historians, and it has even escaped the drag-net of that enterprising compiler whose ambition has been to publish more volumes about Washington than our former Vice-President, Jared Sparks, an achievement due in no inconsiderable degree — so at least it is asserted — to a persistent appropriation of Mr. Sparks's notes. An important passage in the letter in question is cited, it is true, in my father's Address on laying the Corner-stone of the Washington Monument in 1848; but as this address is to be found only in a volume which unfortunately has no index, it seems to me both convenient and appropriate that the entire letter should now be printed in the Proceedings, where it will always be accessible. Several earlier ones already published, to Bowdoin from Washington, are wholly in the latter's hand; but this bears only his signature and frank.

*George Washington to James Bowdoin.*NEW YORK, May 9th 1789.

SIR, — Since my arrival in this place I have been honored with your letters of the 18th of Feb^y and 24th of April. To meet the congratulations and assurances of support from those Characters whose opinions

¹ Printed from Bowdoin's rough draft.

I revere, will be no small service in enabling me to overcome the diffidence which I have in my own abilities to execute properly the important and untried task which my Country has assigned me.

No part of my duty will be more delicate, — and, in many instances, more unpleasing, — than that of nominating or appointing persons to offices. It will undoubtedly often happen that there will be several candidates for the same office whose pretensions, abilities and integrity may be nearly equal — and who will come forward so equally supported in every respect as almost to require the aid of supernatural intuition to fix upon the right. I shall, however, in all events, have the satisfaction to reflect that I entered upon my administration unconfined by a single engagement, — uninfluenced by any ties of blood or friendship, — and with the best intentions and fullest determination to nominate to office those persons only, who, upon every consideration, were the most deserving, — and who would probably execute their several functions to the interest and credit of the American Union, — if such characters could be found by my exploring every avenue of information respecting their merits and pretensions that it was in my power to obtain.

With great respect & esteem, I am, Sir

Your most Obed^t H^{ble} Serv^t,

G. WASHINGTON.

The Hon^{ble} JAMES BOWDOIN.

I proceed to communicate, in the fifth place, a letter to Bowdoin in the following year from another Revolutionary patriot, though of a different sex and of a lesser fame, but one who cultivated the Muses more assiduously than the preceding writer had either leisure or inclination to do, — I mean Mercy Warren, whose somewhat tart but very entertaining correspondence with John Adams at a later period we long ago printed, and who was then for the first time contemplating the publication of her dramatic and miscellaneous poems.

Mercy Warren to James Bowdoin.

S. BOSTON SQUARE, June 28th 1790.

SIR, — My confidence in your friendship & my respect for your judgment lead me to submit to your perusal a few pieces designed for publication, if not better advised by so good a judge. I feel myself very diffident, though encouraged by my friends to embark on the sea of public opinion, but I yet shrink at the idea & keep my mind open to the strictest scrutiny of friendship & candor.

I might show them to many who would criticise, to others who might flatter, the one without friendship, the other without sincerity; but

your opinion, Sir, which I am confident will be the result of both, will lead me readily to suppress any of them which you may think will neither be pleasing to the public eye or honourary to one, who would not have preferred this interruption did she not feel more assured of your friendship than that of any other gentleman of literature and taste in this Capital.

With respect & esteem I am, Sir,

Your most obedient

M. WARREN.

My best compliments to M^{rs} Bowdoin.

As soon as M^r Bowdoin's leisure will permit, he will return the papers with his observations to his obliged Friend.

It is an embarrassing position for a public man to find himself suddenly confronted by a flattering appeal from an elderly female friend to pass judgment on her poetical effusions; and in this instance the delicacy of the situation was enhanced by the consideration obviously due to the sister of James Otis, the wife of James Warren, and the intimate correspondent of Abigail Adams. Governor Bowdoin was then much out of health, — in fact, he died a few months later, — but his habitual caution did not desert him, and apparently within an hour he despatched by private hand the following diplomatic answer, the rough draft of which I find on a blank page of the letter itself: —

James Bowdoin to Mercy Warren.

M^r Bowdoin presents his most respectful compliments to M^{rs} Warren and acquaints her that in the afternoon, or to-morrow morning, he is to proceed on a journey into Connecticut & to the Western parts of Massachusetts, where he will be happy to execute any of M^{rs} Warren's commands. He thinks himself very unfortunate that he is obliged to forego the pleasure of reading the manuscript poems which accompanied her polite billet of this morning. With great reluctance he now returns them, but he promises himself no small entertainment upon their publication, which he hopes will soon take place, being assured it will be no discredit to American Genius.

M^{rs} Bowdoin with her best compliments hopes for the pleasure of seeing M^{rs} Warren.

MONDAY, June 28th

I desire, lastly, to turn back to a period more in my line than the Revolutionary, and to communicate, in the sixth

place, copies of two recently identified letters to Fitz-John Winthrop from Abraham Pierson, first head of what is now Yale University, who, it may be remembered, took his degree at Harvard in 1668, his father of the same name having been a graduate of English Cambridge. There are many letters to John Winthrop the younger from the elder Abraham Pierson, and these of his son having been accidentally mixed with them were lost sight of. Since the last meeting I have sent the originals to New Haven, where there is a modern statue of the writer, but very little of his handwriting. Indeed, it is doubtful whether there exist more than three specimens of his private correspondence, two of them being the letters I have just named, and the other an earlier one to Increase Mather, printed by us in 1868, and now, I believe, in the Boston Public Library. Some time ago I gave a similar destination to several equally rare letters of the father and other near relatives of Elihu Yale, and I then learned, from our Corresponding Member Franklin B. Dexter, that Yale Library was lamentably deficient in autographs of personages associated with early Connecticut history, and I accordingly sent thither last spring between sixty and seventy manuscripts, mostly printed at different times by us, including letters from John Davenport, Theophilus Eaton, George Fenwick, Edward Hopkins, Thomas Hooker, and other fathers of that Colony, as well as of Lion Gardiner, Roger Williams, Sir Edmund Andros, and other persons more or less connected with it. In separating documents from the mass of the Winthrop Papers, and presenting them to different libraries, I have generally mentioned the matter at some meeting, in order that their whereabouts might be indexed in our Proceedings; and I take this opportunity of adding that, at the request of the Manuscript Department of the British Museum, I have recently given to that institution a bundle of papers connected with Governor Winthrop's law-practice prior to 1630. Other law papers of his are described in the first volume of his Life, but these were laid aside as of no importance and difficult to decipher. On examination, however, by officials of the Public Record Office and other experts, it appears that they possess some local and genealogical value, besides throwing, here and there, additional light upon English customs in the early Stuart period. I do not think this Society would be interested in the transcripts

sent out to me, with possibly a single exception, a paper indorsed in 1629, "Broth^r Fones Debts."

Thomas Fones had married for his first wife the eldest of Governor Winthrop's three sisters, and owned a small estate in Suffolk; but he was better known as a fashionable apothecary in London, where the sign of his shop, the "Three Fawnes," in the Old Bailey, was a familiar object in the reign of James I. In settling his estate his assets in cash are described in this schedule partly as money "owing to the testator," and partly as money "due by the shop-booke," the same names figuring to some extent on both lists. This distinction puzzled me until I was reminded of a fact which other members may also have forgotten, that the word "apothecary" was then the legal designation of the mass of the medical profession, — those whom we now style "general practitioners," — who might or might not keep a shop for the sale of drugs, and thus the money due directly to the testator was for attendance on his patients, while the indebtedness in the shop-book was for medicines supplied by his assistants. A further column is devoted to funeral and other charges, but unfortunately the fee paid for what is termed "the sermon at the buriall" is lumped with the undertaker's bill and some incidental items, so that we are quite in the dark as to what this particular parson received for services which in our own day are too often left without any compensation whatever. Nor are we much enlightened as to legal charges, for, owing to the relationship, Governor Winthrop appears to have settled the estate gratis; but the fees for proving the Will in the Prerogative Court amount to what would now be the equivalent of forty-seven dollars, these gentlemen of the Record Office assuring me that money was then worth nearly ten times its present value. Two separate items they consider curious, one for "mourning apparell," — which would, I imagine, include not merely garments, but gloves, hat-bands, and perhaps rings, — set down at the present equivalent of nearly two thousand dollars; the other for "comfetts, wine and sugar at the funerall," set down at fully the equivalent of one thousand dollars. Such an expenditure might not then have been noteworthy in the case of a man of rank and fortune, but it has excited surprise that it should have been incurred, apparently by his own direction, at the funeral of Thomas Fones, who was comfortably off rather than rich, and

whose social position can hardly be rated higher than that of what is now termed the upper middle class.

The letters of Abraham Pierson above referred to here follow:—

For the Honorable Left: general Fitts John Winthrop, att his house in New-London, these.

HONORED SIR,—The grateful remembrance of your worthy and honored father Governour Winthrop of blessed memory, and the great kindnesse which he was wont to expresse to my father's family, doth abundantly oblige me to offer my service and respect (though at present unacquainted) to yourselfe, his honorable son, and to congratulate your saife returne, with thanckful acknowledgement of your faithful Agency in England in behalfe of this Colony, where now of late my residence hath bin. Your prudent and succesfull management of that Affaire doth make it highly reasonable that we render thancks and praise to God, the Author of all our good, and acknowledge our obligations to yourselfe, whom he hath bin pleased to make instrumental therein. Now, Sir, that you may be spirited for and made further serviceable, unto the great interest of the glory of God, and the publique weal of this Colony, is the prayer of, Sir,

Your Servant,

ABRAH: PIERSON.

KALLINWORTH, Febr: 25: 9 $\frac{1}{2}$:

Indorsed by F. J. W.: M^r Abrah^m Pierson. Feb: 25: 169 $\frac{1}{2}$.

For Coll: John Winthrope Esquire, Governour of her Majesties Colony of Connecticutt, at his house in New London, these.

HONOURED SIR,—My humble service to your Honour and Madam Winthrope premised. I have occasion for some cedar-shingles, not to dispose of, but for my use. The errand therefore of these lines is to request your Honours allowance of my getting them in your cedar-swamp in the Bounds of Say-Brook. The sicknesse is said still to go on at New Haven and Milford, and divers there lately dead, and tis reported that Madam Treat is dead. I intreat an intimation by the next opportunity of your Honours pleasure in reference to the premises, and you shall oblige, Honoured Sir,

Your humble servant,

ABRAH: PIERSON.

KALLINWORTH, Novemb: 8: 703.

Indorsed by F. J. W.: M^r Pierson. Nov. 8th 1703.

The Hon. WILLIAM EVERETT referred briefly to a sermon which, at the request of the Quincy Historical Society, he had

delivered in commemoration of the life and services of the late William R. Tyler, Master of Adams Academy, and a member of that Society. The sermon had been sent to the Library by the Society at whose request it was delivered. Mr. Everett also spoke of the strong historical tastes of the first principal of the Academy, the late William R. Dimmock, LL.D., and paid a feeling tribute to his memory.

Dr. SAMUEL A. GREEN communicated four unpublished letters by Dr. Isaac Watts, and said :—

At a meeting of this Society, held on February 14, 1895, numerous letters of Dr. Isaac Watts, brought together from different sources, were the subject of notice; and copies of them duly appear in the Proceedings. As supplementary to that collection of letters by him, I wish to communicate copies of four others, which were written to President Holyoke of Harvard College. They show Dr. Watts's interest in the welfare of that institution, and in public matters generally, so far as they related to the Province of Massachusetts Bay. The original letters belong to Mr. George E. H. Abbot (H. C. 1860) and Miss Abbot, of Groton, children of the late Reverend Ephraim Abbot (H. C. 1806), whose first wife was a granddaughter of Mr. Holyoke.

REV^d SIR

Your advancement to preside over Harvard College was in my Wish, according to the Character I heard of you during the vacancy. May the alwise & gracious God continue to encrease all those valuable Qualifications in you which recommended you to y^e Electors! And may that *Integrity & Religion* which you have so happily recommended to the Counsellors of your Province in your late Excellent Sermon, be as mightily prevalent among all the Tutors & Supervisors of y^e Education of youth as among your Civil Magistracy. I know not that ever I read a Sermon on such an Occasion which better pleased me.

The Scandall of y^e Impudent News writer you speak off, is so far disbelieved & Dead, that Coll: Quincy (whom we consulted on this affair) was unanimous with severall of our Brethren in the ministry here, in not publishing an Answer to it in print. We are entirely with you in opinion that w^hsoever Gov^r Belcher is removed from his post, twill be filled with a much less valuable Man: Nor can we imagine what cou'd give occasion to such an odious ffalshood, but y^e two chief characters of the Prince of Darkness, i. e. Ambition & Malice.

Alass, for that hon^{ble} Gentleman Co^{ll} Quincy! I waited on him twice before his experiment began to take effect, & found all that in him which was so high in esteem among you, & therefore I sensibly lamented his Death. His observations of the Great success of Inoculation in N: E. Tempted him to think 'twas the same among us: And his Age renderd his case so dangerous that I Question whether any Physician in London would have putt him upon it. But since he came over resolved, I thought it not safe to say any thing that might sink his Spirits.

Here is a new little book of mine published three days ago w^{ch} now desires a place in your College Library among the Rest of my Writings with acknowledg^{mt} of y^e honors you do me hereby.

May y^e Great Shepherd of his Church under Your inspection furnish out many under-shepherds for the flock. And may a Devout zeal for the great & inestimable Doctrines of y^e Gospell, regulated by Rational Principles, & holy Moderation & Love, & A pathetick Desire to save Souls & to promote the Honor of our blessed Lord, be the universall Character of the Students of your College & those whom you send forth into publick ministrations. I know by y^e Temper of your Soul, This is your Wish as well as mine, & may it be ratified in Heaven. Amen.

Your affect^{te} Bro^r

& humble Serv^t

NEWINGTON neer London,

June 1st 1738.

I. WATTS.

[Addressed on the outside]

To the very Rev^d

Mr Edward Holyoke.

President of Harvard College
Cambridge. N: E.

REV^d SIR

I think I did myself y^e honor to answer your kind Letter last year. I send y^e College-Library another of my Labors, & recommend y^e Enclosed pamphlet to your Self, hoping you will there find some modern Difficulties adjusted. May Grace & Peace be ever with you, & under your Presidency May many young Luminaries of y^e Christian Church be traird up for publick Light & Usefulness.

Your most obed^t humble Serv^t

NEWINGTON

June 7th 1739

& Bro^r

I. WATTS.

At the bottom of this letter is an entry made by another person in such a cramped hand, and so much abbreviated, that it cannot be wholly made out. Perhaps it was written by President Holyoke.

NEWINGTON near London.

May 30, 1741.

REV^d SIR

How ever my Inclinations would lead me to converse with you by Letter upon the Honorable Character I have received of you, yet my decline of Health all this Spring constrains me to shorten or drop my Correspondencies; and I can do no more at present than recommend this my Labor of former Years to the peru[s]al of the students under your Care, it it [*sic*] may be so happy as to obtain your Appropriation.

With my Sincere best wishes for the Success of your Labors in training up a pious and usefull Ministry in America.

I am

Sir

Your Affectionate Brother

[Addressed on the outside]

and Humble Serv^t

I: WATTS.

To

The Rev^d M^r Holyoke

President of Harvard College
in New England.

NEWINGTON Nov^r 15th 1742.REV^d SIR

God having begun a good work in Scotland in several villages near Glasgow like to that in New England, I was willing that you and the Students under your Care might see something of the Narrative & the vindication thereof; and I send these two Pamphlets for that purpose, for I would do any thing that lyes in my way to help forward y^e Good work: and I may say hitherto they have found but few of those Dishonors mingling with it which can have any tendency to disgrace it.

I am

Sir

with Earnest desires of Success
in your important Post

Your very Humble Serv^t

and Brother

I WATTS.

My health is sunk so low
that I am forced to shorten
& contract all my Correspondencies

[Addressed on the outside]

To

The Rev^d M^r Holyoke

President of

Harvard College

in New England

The following, on a slip of paper, is enclosed in the letter, and was intended doubtless as a postscript:—

I had forgot to mention in my Letter that M^r Brackstone for whom these Books are printed is my nephew, the son of my only Sister, who set up his Trade last year next door to the Royal Exchange.

The PRESIDENT alluded to the harsh treatment of the American Loyalists during the Revolutionary period and subsequent thereto, including as it did persecution, imprisonment, confiscation, and exile; an episode to which, he said, not enough attention had been paid,—one which, indeed, the patriotic American historian of the earlier time had found it convenient to pass over very gently. Accordingly only during recent years a degree of very tardy justice had been meted out to a class in the eighteenth-century community which, though indeed guilty of the sin of adhering to the wrong as well as the losing cause, in the result sacrificed for principle, and for what those composing it sincerely believed to be the best ultimate interests of a common country, even more than the patriots. He referred to J. K. Hosmer's life of Thomas Hutchinson and to Prof. Moses Coit Tyler's recently published volumes on the Literary History of the American Revolution as furnishing examples of the exercise of an intelligent and judicial historical spirit, in the treatment of the so-called Tories, greatly to be commended; and he quoted with approval the following estimate of them as a class in the community of that day from Professor Tyler's work (vol. i. p. 303):—

“By any standard of judgment, therefore, according to which we usually determine the personal quality of any party of men and women in this world—whether the standard be intellectual, or moral, or social, or merely conventional—the Tories of the Revolution seem to have been not a profligate party, nor an unprincipled one, nor a reckless or even a light-minded one, but, on the contrary, to have had among them a very considerable portion of the most refined, thoughtful, and conscientious people in the colonies. So true is this, that in 1807 a noble-minded Scottish woman, Mistress Anne Grant, of Laggan, who in her early life had been familiar with American colonial society, compared the loss which America suffered in consequence of the expatriation of the Loyalists by the Revolution, to the loss which France suffered in consequence of the expatriation of so many of her Protestants by the revocation of the Edict of Nantes.”

The President further said that he referred to the subject now in order to call the attention of the Society to an extremely interesting letter which had been communicated to the Dedham Historical Register by our associate Rev. Edmund F. Slafter.¹ "Every one," he added, "who has ever turned his attention to historical investigation knows how thoroughly exasperating it is to have really valuable bits of evidence hidden away, as it were, in quarters where they are almost inevitably, from the very necessity of the case, overlooked; for no one can, in these days, ransack every repository. The published Proceedings of this Society can, therefore, serve no more useful purpose than in giving clues to these scraps of historical data. Whatever of the sort there finds a place is put upon file and catalogued. Even the not very thorough investigator is, by means of our indexes, almost sure to stumble across it." The letter in question was from Rev. William Clark, incumbent of the Church of England Society in the Massachusetts town of Dedham. It was dated Quincy, March 14, 1803, and the extract in other respects explains itself.

"I was ordained by the Rt. Rev. Dr. Terrick, then Bishop of London, on St. Thomas' day, Dec^r 21, 1768, and returned to Dedham in June, 1769; and in that beloved retirement I lived, as it were, unobserved by the world, till the frenzy of the times at the beginning of the Revolution disturbed my repose. Never man lived more peaceably and quiet; never man meddled less with politics, or was a better friend to Civil and religious liberty than myself. But all would not do. I received a small salary from an Incorporated Society in England, (not from the Government.) '*Hinc illæ lachrymæ!*' This was my crime. After ten weeks close imprisonment at Boston, in the midst of summer, 1777, till my health was nearly ruined, I got leave of the then General Court to return to my own house in Dedham; confined to within one mile of it under bonds of £500 penalty, with two sureties of £250 each. After continuing a year in this way, and seeing no respite, I applied again to the General Court, and obtained permission to leave the Country. I went in a cartel to Newport, and thence to New York, from whence I took passage to England about Christmas following, and, after touching at Ireland, arrived in London, beginning of February, 1779; and was absent fourteen years."

¹ See Dedham Hist. Reg., vol. ix. pp. 13-15.

More or less extended remarks were made during the meeting by the PRESIDENT, and Messrs. EDWARD J. YOUNG, WILLIAM W. GOODWIN, ROBERT C. WINTHROP, Jr., ALBERT B. HART, ABNER C. GOODELL, Jr., GAMALIEL BRADFORD, SAMUEL A. GREEN, and EDMUND F. SLAFTER.

A new serial number of the Proceedings, comprising the records of the December and January meetings, was ready for delivery at this meeting.